

5     **AUTOMATICALLY DETERMINING THE AWARENESS**  
          **SETTINGS AMONG PEOPLE IN DISTRIBUTED**  
          **WORKING ENVIRONMENT**

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

10       Communication channels among users in a collaborative computing  
system are automatically adjusted based on users' current states detected by  
various sensing devices. The collaboration system that includes an awareness  
system for evaluating, monitoring, and controlling, in real-time, the  
collaboration environment by having events and occurrences with properties.  
The awareness monitoring system includes (1) receiving and analyzing real  
15   time data from input sensors and (2) an elastic spring energy model for  
automatically adjusting a distance according to a level of privacy desired by  
individual users, the requirement of the organization, and a need of the  
collaborative project to have some shared information about individual user  
activities. When a spring energy model is difficult to obtain, a matrix looks up  
20   model is used to automatically adjust a distance according to a level of privacy  
desired by individual users, the requirement of the organization, and the need  
of the collaborative project.